

Hawaii MARINE

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Twilight Tribute



Cpl. David Salazar

Hawaii Marines re-enact the flag raising atop Mount Suribachi to accent the Marine Forces Pacific Band's performance at the 5th Annual Twilight Tattoo at Kuroda Field aboard Fort DeRussy in Waikiki Saturday. For more on the band's performance, see page A-10.

Military eligible for Thrift Plan

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Servicemembers can begin to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan beginning Oct. 9, 2001, DoD officials said.

The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement and investment plan that has been available to civilian government workers since 1987. Congress extended the plan to include servicemembers in 2000.

"It's in addition to your regular retirement," said Army Lt. Col. Tom Emswiler, a tax expert with DoD's Office of Military Compensation. "It's an optional program."

The open season for signing up will run from Oct. 9 to Dec. 8. Deductions start in January 2002. In 2002, servicemembers can contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay.

The maximum amount

service members can contribute from basic pay will change. The current limit of 7 percent of basic pay will rise to 10 percent by 2005 and become unlimited in 2006.

Unlike civilians, who cannot make lump-sum payments into the program, service members may also contribute all or a percentage of any special pay, incentive pay, or bonus pay they receive.

"You can contribute from 1 percent to 100 percent of your special pays, incentives and bonuses into the thrift plan," Emswiler said.

The total amount generally cannot exceed \$10,500 for the year. Contributions from pay earned in a combat zone do not count against the \$10,500 ceiling. Combat zone contributions are subject to a different limitation, however, 25 percent of pay

See PLAN, A-11

Temperatures cause pet embargo on airlines

Cpl. David Salazar
Editor

Things could get "hairy" for pet owners who plan to relocate in the summer months due to pet shipping embargoes placed by certain airlines between the months of May and September.

Currently, only Northwest, United, Delta, American, and Hawaiian airlines accept pets for travel and fewer may accept pets as the outside temperatures increase, according to Staff Sgt. James Webb, the noncommissioned

officer-in-charge of the passenger section of the MCB Hawaii Traffic Management Office.

"When the outside temperature reaches 85 degrees and higher, certain airlines refuse to accept pets for travel due to (the possibility of) fatalities," Webb said. "These airlines don't want to be responsible for these problems, so they stop shipping pets between those months."

"Extreme heat (85 degrees fahrenheit or 29 degrees celsius) during the summer months can put animals in a life-threatening situation

onboard our aircraft. This embargo is in the best interest of the pet," according to the <http://www.delta.com>, Delta Airlines' website.

Despite these conditions, Webb assured that it is still possible for pets to make it to the family's new home via services offered by some airlines.

"We do everything we possibly can to work with the more user-friendly airlines to ensure that the pets travel with their families," Webb said. "Last year, there was not one case in which we were unable to send a

pet with its family."

Regardless of the TMO's past track record, Webb said it's still imperative that relocating servicemembers contact the airlines on which they are scheduled to travel and notify them of their intents to travel with a pet due to space restrictions some airlines have in their cargo holds.

Some airlines, such as Northwest, have no set dates for refusal to ship pets. According to the airlines' website, nwa.com, airline per-

See PETS, A-11

MCBH Legal Assistance Office garners CMC award

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

The MCB Hawaii legal assistance office received the Commandant's Award for Excellence in Legal Assistance for the year 2000 on March 13, in a small, but distinguished ceremony that took place at the base conference room.

Brigadier Gen. R. E. Parker, MCB Hawaii commanding general, presented the award to seven Marines and one civilian, during the general's weekly meeting with the base's principal staff and commanding officers.

This small group of Marines, said Brig. Gen. Parker, is what the base has to handle the legal needs of your Marines and Sailors.

This was the second time in four years the legal center at K-Bay won the CAELA. They were recognized in 1997 as well.

The CAELA is annually awarded by the Judge Advocate League to legal service centers for superior, quality, legal assistance.

"It's an honor and a privilege to earn this award," said Capt. Daniel J. Evans, the officer in charge of the Legal Assistance Office. "It reflects greatly on the legal as-



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

Brigadier Gen. R. E. Parker shakes the hand of Keawe Iwalani, a civilian paralegal in K-Bay's legal assistance office, on March 13, during an award ceremony honoring the legal assistance center with the Commandant's Award for Excellence in Legal Assistance.

sistance team, the legal service center and all their hard work at K-Bay."

It is not often small legal assistance centers like K-Bay's get recognized, because small centers don't usually handle as much business as the larger bases like Camp Pendleton, Calif., or Camp Lejeune, N.C., according to Evans. "Those particular legal centers have more personnel, especially attorneys, working for them, so they're able to provide service to a large number of clientele."

Not only has the center been able to handle a large workload, but prides itself on

the ability to provide quality legal assistance to clients.

Wills, powers-of-attorney, separation and divorce paperwork are only a small portion of the day-to-day tasks the legal center at K-Bay handles.

"Most people can't afford to go out into town and get an attorney, let alone find one that gives free legal advice," said Evans.

One of the biggest reasons K-Bay's legal assistance office is successful, according to Evans is the dedication of the staff to understand the clients they serve are there

See LEGAL, A-11

3/3 Marines take 'Super Squad' title

Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

The Marines of 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, were announced Monday as the winners of the 3rd Marines Super Squad Competition by way of a final tie-breaking event.

The competition is a weeklong exercise during which Marines perform a series of events related to the abilities of a rifle squad. These events include marksmanship contests, physical fitness endurance events and field evolutions.

The grueling week began with a gear inspection to monitor maintenance and serviceability of the Marines' field equipment. The Marines of 3/3 took an early lead over the Marines of 1st Squad, 2nd Plt., Bravo Co., 1/3, by winning this portion of the competition.

Next, the Marines were challenged with a physical fitness endurance evaluation that included push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups and a hike. The competition was so close in this event that it resulted in a tie, leaving 3/3 slightly ahead in the overall competition.

It was during the marksmanship

evaluation that the Marines of 1/3 tied the overall score. They showed more proficiency with the weapons organic to an infantry rifle squad, the M-16A2 service rifle, the M249 squad automatic weapon and the M203 40mm grenade launcher.

The competitors then headed to the field at Schofield Barracks' East Range for their field evaluations.

The first field event was mounting an offensive assault. The Marines of 1/3 further stretched their lead as they more effectively offensively engaged an enemy unit,

See SQUAD, A-8



Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible

Colonel R. B. Peele, commanding officer, 3rd Marine Regiment, addresses the winners of the Super Squad Competition Monday.

MCBH NEWS
BRIEFS

ENERGY CONSERVATION

In a previous message, the Base Facilities Department mentioned that the base faces a shortfall in utilities budget. Do you want to learn more ways to help?

Water is one of the base’s most precious commodities. There are some measures that you as a member of the base community can do to conserve water.

- Don’t take long showers; Five minutes in the shower will get you clean.
- Make sure your sprinkler is not on too long, following local regulations.
- Check toilets periodically for leaks; get them repaired promptly.
- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist, wind may carry water beyond area to be watered.
- When doing laundry, adjust the water amount to the size of the load or wait until you have a full load.
- If you are washing dishes in your dishwasher, run your dishwasher when it is full.

If you have other suggestions or need more information, you can contact Jim McFarland, LFPU, at 257-2171 ext 284, email: mcfarland-jd@mcbh.usmc.mil.

ALL HANDS BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT BRIEFS

The All Hands Business Management brief previously scheduled for today as been cancelled. The next meeting is sceduled for April 19 and June 21 at 7:30 a.m. at the base theater. For more information, call the Business Management Office at 257-3188.

SCOUT LEADERSHIP WANTED

Boy Scout Troop 425, located aboard MCBH Kaneohe Bay, has openings for adult leadership. Scoutmaster positions are available as well as positions on the administrative committee.

The troop meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., and conducts monthly outings (camping and hiking), as well as community service projects. Experience is not needed, only a desire to help form the future of America.

Interested adults should call Dave Runyon at 254-2696 (evenings/weekends), 257-1852 (workday), or e-mail at runyonda@mcbh.usmc.mil.

AESC SCHOLARSHIP

All Enlisted Spouses’ Club 2001/2002 Scholarship applications are currently available at MCCS Personal Services offices, the Base Library and the AESC Thrift Shop.

The deadline for applications is April 15. For more information, call Michelle at 254-0551 or Trisha at 254-2642.

HABILITAT SEEKS HELP

Habilitat, a non-profit, non-sectarian substance abuse treatment program, is seeking donations of camouflage utility trousers for their work crews.

For information about making individual or unit donations, contact Staff Sgt. Sean Flanary at 257-8824.

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

FORD ISLAND—Representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines gathered here on Saturday to compete in a ten-lap electric car sprint during the 6th Annual Hawaiian Electric Electron Marathon.

The goal of the Marine team from Marine Corps Air Facility, Kaneohe Bay, was to win the race in only their second year in the competition.

A first place finish would show the other services that elbow grease, and Marine Corps ingenuity would make up for their second place showing in last year’s race.

Last year, despite a hand-me-down car, and minuscule budget, the Marines were able to place a respectable second place.

"We took second basically because the Air Force and the Navy cars broke down during the race," said Lance Cpl. Luke S. Telford, navigational aids chief for MCAF.

This year, the Marines were able improve their electric car by leaps and bound above their last year’s entry, he added.

"We were able to build almost a completely new car this year, because of about \$400 in unsolicited donations we received. "The entire car is different, except for the chassis, than the one from last year."

An aluminum frame, free-spinning gears and hub, steering and brakes are the major upgrades the Marines from MCAF made to their electric car.

The aluminum frame was made from donated sign poles, and mig-welded by Lance Cpl. Rustin Winburn, a mechanic from Combat Service Support Group 3.

Telford wasn’t the only Marine to bear the responsibility of getting the car ready for the race. He had help from Lance Cpl. Erik J. Klueber, a weather technician, and Lance Cpl. John Mangus, a navigation aids technician.

The three Marines started to build the car with only two weeks before the race.

With all the improvements that were made to the Marines electric car this year, hopes were high on the Marine team to do better this year possibly taking first place, which meant beating the tough Army car



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

The Marines’ entry in the Electron Marathon, left, closes in on the Army’s car.

that won last year’s race.

On Saturday the inter-service race was set up as an all out ten lap sprint between the four competitors, with a pre-lap led by a pace car.

As the race began, all four vehicles stayed close together on the course until the halfway point of the first lap when the Navy began to experience power problems and were slowed down considerably for the remainder of the race.

All three of the remaining vehicles were able to reach and maintain speeds close to 30 mph during the entire race.

It was the Army, Air Force and Marines that would provide some NASCAR-like excitement on the last turn of the first lap.

That particular turn was tight, and the three cars were fighting for position in the long straight away that followed. The result was a collision that had the more than 3,000 spectators at the marathon gasping.

"I wanted to take out the Army’s car, because I had the inside lane on the last turn, and he tried to cut me off," said Telford. "That’s when I aimed for his rear tire, and tried to end his race."

While the altercation might have looked like a big collision, all the Marine car was

able to do was push the right rear tire of the Army car forcing it to tailspin slightly.

Although the bump didn’t damage either of the vehicles it set a precedence for the rest of the race, and possibly future races; this is a competition, and everyone wants to win.

After the first lap, the Army took the lead and stubbornly held onto it for the rest of the race.

The real battle was for second place.

The Air Force car looked like it had firm control of the second place slot. It was able to stay about 20 to 30 feet in front of the Marine car for the first half of the race, and it looked as if it might even challenge the Army’s car for first place.

But luck was not with the Air Force on Saturday. In a strange twist of fate on the sixth lap, the Air Force’s car began to experience problems maintaining speed and power allowing Telford and the Marine Corps to pull into the second place slot. The same position that Telford held last year.

"We wanted to win this race this year, but we had problems with the steering and the last turn of the track," said Telford. "If it weren’t for those two things, we could have given the Army a run for their money."

Even though the Marines weren’t satisfied with second place, they were still proud of their accomplishment and impressed with their improved performance over last year’s race.

"Last year, the Army car ran away with this race, because the two other cars broke down and we were not able to go as fast as we did this year," said Telford. "We did well this year, but next year we want to win this race."

Despite not winning the race, the MCAF electric car crew learned from the experience and knows what to fix in order to make a run for first place next year.

"They performed admirably, and everyone should realize these were three Lance Corporals who made this mission happen," said Lt. Col. Aaron E. Aldridge, the commanding officer of MCAF. "This was one example of giving Marines the tools, and the mission, and they run with it."



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

The MCAF Marines pose near their race entry before competing in the 6th Annual Hawaii Electric Electron Marathon.

Silver Anniversary



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Patrol Squadron 9, Golden Eagles, celebrated their 50th Anniversary Friday at Hanger 104. Rear Adm. Michael Holmes, Commander Patrol Reconnaissance Patrol Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, addressed the squadron during a ceremony held that morning. “This units has been successful with every change,” he said. The squadron has had 10 different model planes, been to more than five different bases and has deployed over 100 times, since its commissioning in 1951. Currently the squadron is stationed at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and flies the P-3C Orion.

Hawaii
MARINE

Commanding General
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Press Chief
Editor

Brig. Gen. R. E. Parker Jr.
Maj. Jeffrey Nyhart
Gunnery Sgt. Rhys A. Evans
Gunnery Sgt. Rhys A. Evans
Cpl. David Salazar

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To contact the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office use the following addresses:

Hawaii Marine, Building 216, MCB Hawaii
Kaneohe Bay, HI, 96863
e-mail: hawaiiimarine@mcbh.usmc.mil
Fax: 257-2511, Phone: 257-8840

Veterans remember West Loch incident

Lance Cpl. Jacques-René Hébert
MarForPac Public Affairs

CAMP H.M. SMITH – The eyes are what give it away. Through these windows to the soul, the pain becomes apparent and tangible as the first tears make their way to the surface. The older veteran tightens as if to choke back the emotions as the camera's light catches each glimmering streak running down his cheeks. Shaking his head, he begins.

"May 21, 1944, was the day it happened," he starts.

Then the story pours out, directly from the heart, about the loss of comrades, the tragedy of the unexpected and the valiance of the normal man.

This tale is a little known story, about an explosion that ripped through the calm, mid-day air among the LSTs (Tank Landing Ship) in the West Loch of Pearl Harbor.

Nearly 560 Marines and Sailors were killed or wounded in the unexplained blast, which was one of the biggest accidents in Naval history and Pearl Harbor's second World War II-related tragedy.

Besides the casualties, six LSTs and three LCTs (Tracking Landing Craft) were destroyed in the inferno. To the survivors, the tragedy became an ugly wound on their conscience as they mourned the loss of their comrades-in-arms. The public, however, knew nothing. Back in the states, the incident surfaced in newspapers as a minor accident involving few servicemembers and little damage to Naval vessel.

The disaster then slipped into the waters of Pearl Harbor, with the scarred hulls of the LSTs, to remain untouched for many years. The mystery of the cause still lingering.



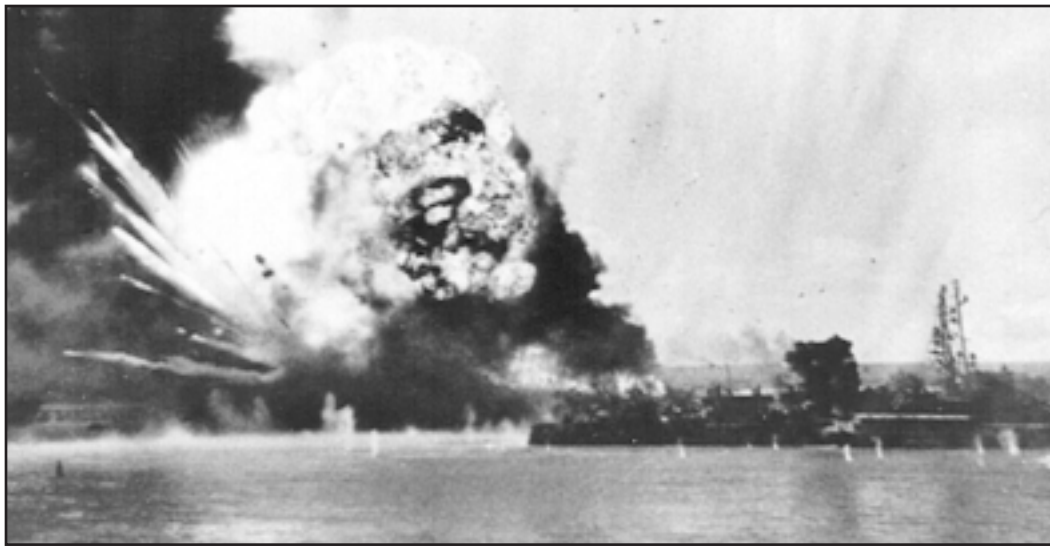
Frawley

Vantage Point Productions, a production company contracted by the History Channel, was sent out to interview survivors of the catastrophe for a program about the tragedy, according to Robert Rosales, Associate Producer. On March 25, two former Marines, James Reed and Calvin Frawley, gave their eyewitness accounts of the disaster and surrounding events that occurred on that tragic day so long ago.

Reed, a Minneapolis native, was a senior in high school when Japanese bombers attacked Pearl Harbor. He enlisted soon after graduation, and headed off for recruit training in San Diego. He was stationed in Hawaii with 4th Marine Division, when the incident occurred.

"We were running exercises everyday off the coast of Maui," Reed reflected. "The exercises were to prepare us for an attack on Saipan."

Before heading to the South Pacific island, the LSTs that were transporting the Marines and Sailors taking part in the invasion docked in the West Loch of Pearl Harbor to collect necessary supplies. Little did they know, they would be shedding



Robert L. Dennebaum, U.S. Navy

The explosion at West Loch in Pearl Harbor May 21, 1944, wounded or killed Nearly 560 Marines and Sailors and ranks as the second largest incidents in which lives were lost in U.S. Naval History.

blood while still on native soil.

"It felt like any other day," remembered Reed. "It was a bright, sunny afternoon, and I was taking a nap in my cot. All of a sudden, I was awoken by a huge explosion, and then I noticed that all the cots around me were on fire."

Jumping from his cot, Reed ran to the side of the LCT and jumped over the side onto the deck of the LST 15 feet below. Though he broke his ankle, the raining shrapnel and exploding jeep motors set off by the initial explosion was motivation enough for Reed to jump over the side and into the Harbor.

Finally making it to the shore, Reed found a new problem in negotiating the steep embankment with his injury.

"I struggled for such a long time," Reed explained. "Then a black man – to this day, I don't know his name – came and lifted me out of the water and took me up to a small home where an Asian couple watched over me until an ambulance could come."

During a time of prejudice, discrimination, and segregation, those boundaries were quickly forgotten during the emergency.

"That man was a hero," Reed stated. "I wouldn't have lived if his hand wouldn't have been there to lift me. He wasn't the only one. There were many heroes that day."

Reed went on to fight in the invasion of Saipan, where he was shot in the back of the neck, but recovered in time to take part in the battle on Iwo Jima. By the time of his discharge, Reed had earned two Purple Hearts.

Though the two didn't know each other, Frawley's recollections remained similar to Reed's.

Born and raised in North Olmsted, Ohio, Frawley was active in high school, participating in all of the sports his school offered. One of his most vivid memories, however, was the Dec. 7, 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor.

"I wanted to quit school and fight right away," Frawley stated. "My Dad told me that I had to wait until graduation before I joined the Marines."

Two years later and true to his word, Frawley entered the Corps and found him-

self in the Joint Assault Signal Company of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines Regiment, 2nd Division. He was just 19 years old when the LST he was attached to docked in the West Loch of Pearl Harbor.

"I remember being surprised that they had docked combat-loaded LSTs side-by-side," Frawley explained.

The young Marine was in the hull of the ship writing a letter to his father when the explosion occurred.

"The explosion was so great, the paint on the ceiling and bulkheads came down like snow," Frawley recollected.

In an adjacent bathroom, a hole had been blasted in the ceiling from the fiery impact. To speed his escape from the ship, Frawley remembers clawing through the small hole to the smoky deck above.

"When I came to the surface of the ship, the devastation was something fierce," explained Frawley. "There were bodies everywhere. I'm sure that some of those bodies came all the way from the ship that the explosion occurred on."

Frawley headed aft before gasoline drums in the bow were set off by the fire, exploding with shrapnel and fragments flying everywhere. At that time, Frawley took that as his cue and jumped off of the ship, wearing nothing but his shorts.

"The bodies – the dead – were just laying in the water, rising and falling with the tide," Frawley remembered.

Frawley eventually made it to shore, and was given Sailors clothes to wear until his Marine Corps uniforms could be replaced. Luckily, his clothes were his only loss.

Frawley saw several battles before eventually leaving the Marine Corps in 1946.

"It was the 2nd of January and I was so happy to be alive," Frawley said.

After all of these years, though the memories are still fresh for the survivors, this tragedy in Naval history remains unknown by the public and ignored by the military.

Both Frawley and Reed agree that the tragedy at West Loch that occurred on May 21, 1944 should be recognized by the public, and hope the program to be aired on the History Channel will help towards this goal.

"Tragedies like these, where boys are lost prior to engaging the enemy – these stories should be told," explained Frawley.

WORD ON THE STREET

What do you think of the new camouflauge utility uniforms?

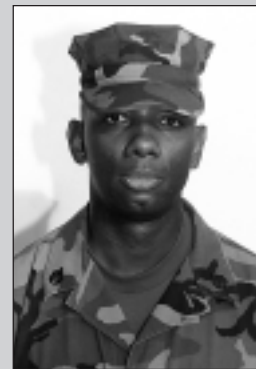


"I see nothing wrong with what we've got now — so why change them?"

Cpl. Michael Meirholtz
 Graphics Specialist
 Headquarters Bn.

"Honestly, I think they look like what the Australians wear. We're supposed to be the only ones to have these, but they are (very close to those of the Australian Army). And I like the uniform I wear right now."

Staff Sgt. Norvell Moore
 Platoon Sergeant
 India Co., 3/3

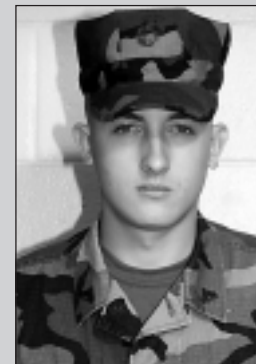


"I haven't seen them, but I don't like the zippered sleeves. It's a bad idea because Marines will be losing sleeves or the zippers will break."

Capt. Daniel Evans
 Tax Center OIC
 Headquarters Bn.

"I think they are nice, but I don't like the boots. I don't like the idea of not having spit-shined boots anymore."

Cpl. Joshua Whann
 Legal Assistance
 NCOIC
 Headquarters Bn.



"I don't like them. They are ugly and not good for combat because of the Velcro on the pockets. When you go to open a pocket, the sound will give your position away to the enemy."

Lance Cpl. Ramon Hernandez
 Assistant Gunner
 Kilo Co., 3/3



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Corporal Noel Salinas, a small arms technician for MP Co., HQBn., aims down range to sight in on his target. This was the first time for Salinas and many other Marines fired on the LOMAH system for their annual qualification.

First rifle detail fires on LOMAH

Cpl. Roman Yurek
Combat Correspondent

The new Location Of Miss And Hit system was used to qualify 65 Marines for the first time March 12 - 16 at the Range Training Facility, Ulupau Crater, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, for their annual rifle qualification.

Not more than four months ago, Marines went to the range and spent most of the day firing and pulling targets, but the new system helps lessen "range time" with the elimination of traditional target pulling.

"I think that the system will get Marines off the firing line faster and possibly allow them to go back work for most of the day," said Sgt. Chad Boblett, a coach and dispatcher from the MCB Hawaii Motor Transportation Section.

"The system was able to get one relay through the KD course in 45 minutes — that included picking up the empty shells on the three firing lines," said Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Troche, the primary

marksmanship instructor for the range.

The system may allow Marines to fire the known distance course quicker, but the amount of Marines firing will stay the same.

Although the system eliminates much of the manual labor that Marines had to do during their rifle week, it is designed to quickly transition from computer to manual operations and back if the LOMAH system goes down for maintenance, according to Troche.

The versatility of the system was tested March 20, when a power outage required firing Marines to once again ascend to the "pits" to pull targets, according to Cpl. Noel Salinas, a small arms technician for Military Police Company, Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii. Once the power was restored, so was the LOMAH system.

"I remember pulling targets in boot camp and asking myself why there wasn't a machine that could do this," said Boblett. "Now I just think about when I am a master gunnery sergeant, how I can brag to my junior Marines that I was around when we had to pull targets manually."

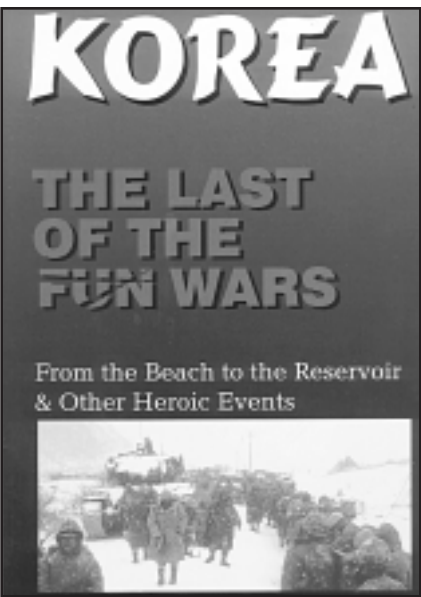
BOOK REVIEW

Kalnasy’s ‘Korea’ gives new spin on war

MCB Hawaii Staff
Book Review

Anyone who has fought for his country can speak about the horrors and tragedies of war. However, these accounts are hard to believe when contrasted to the novel "Korea: The Last of the Fun Wars." Author and former Marine Kenneth "Kal" Kalnasy answered his son’s questions about the war he served in by writing ‘Korea’ — a work comprised of several factual and fictional short stories about how Marines lived during the Korean War. At first glance, "Korea" seems to be yet another former Marine’s take on his experiences during war. After reading through the introduction and first short story, the reader comes to find that Kalnasy has re-

created a Korean M*A*S*H of sorts, in that he strives more to impart humorous anecdotes of the war, peppered with accounts of the trials and tribulations faced by the valiant warriors during battle. In fact, some readers may find that Kalnasy followed the lead of television shows, such as "Gomer Pyle, USMC" and "F-Troop" in that the day-to-day antics of the servicemen outweighed their mental anguish during combat. Some may be inclined to say that concentrating on these zany situations in lieu of the tragic episodes helped the weary servicemen live through their anguish. Readers can find out about a delusional Marine captain, whose dream it was to ride into combat on a white stallion — who lived to do just that. Or about why Col. Lewis



B. "Chesty" Puller probably limped around the Korean base camp for a few days, much thanks to the work of a crafty private.

Kalnasy, in his simple prose, meanders between real-life accounts about how Marines did what they had to in order to sustain themselves, "sea stories," and anecdotes about events too outlandish to be real. Or are they? Only Kalnasy knows for sure, and he won’t tell. Marines of the past and present shouldn’t have too hard of a time identifying and believing the majority of Kalnasy’s tall tales, however. Kalnasy, who served with the 1st Marine Division during the Inchon Landing and Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, rounds his creation off with his poem entitled, "From the Beach To the Reservoir" — a lengthy rhyme about the pangs of his combat experiences. Kalnasy’s poem skillfully illustrates the gore, confusion, and emotional anguish

he and his comrades faced in the heat of battle for the "Frozen Chosin." (Kalnasy presented the poem to MCB Hawaii during a ceremony on June 15, 2000.) The combination of the light-hearted hijinks of the Marines in the first half of the book and that of the dark and painful reality of the poem serve to cleverly give the reader a curious balance of humor, history and reality. "Korea" is a valuable read because it lends a personal account of a challenging war and overall enhances the Marine Corps’ proud, rich history. Editor’s Note: Portions of the proceeds from "Korea: The Last of the Fun Wars" will benefit the Disabled American Veterans and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Japanese dignitary visits Oahu



Lance Cpl. Jacques-Rene Hebert

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and retired Marine Col. Gene Castagnetti, director of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, attend a wreath laying ceremony at the cemetery Tuesday. The Prime Minister was returning after presidential discussions in Washington, D.C., and visiting the site of the Feb. 9 sinking of the Ehime Maru.

‘Korea’ author holds book signing

Cpl. David Salazar
Editor

Kenneth “Kal” Kalnasy, Korean War veteran and author of “Korea: The Last of the Fun Wars” is scheduled to hold a book-signing session at the Navy Exchange aboard Naval Base Pearl Harbor Saturday. The event will kick off at 11 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. The cost of the novel, comprised of short stories and anecdotes about Marine life during the Korean War, is \$13.95. Four dollars from the cost of every book sold is contributed to the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society. The author served with the 1st Marine Division during the conflict and partook in the Inchon Landing and the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. Kalnasy’s novel cleverly combines humorous accounts of the day-to-day antics of the men who served in the war, and his painful tale about the trials and tribulations he and his comrades-in-arms faced during combat in his poem, “From the Beach to the Reservoir.” (See above article for full review on the novel.) Proceeds from sales of the novel will also benefit the Disabled American Veterans organizations throughout the country. The book will be available for purchase at the NEX on book-signing day.

Test your Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society knowledge

Heather Hesslink
N/MCRS Public Affairs

The other day a gentlemen was in the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society office and as we spoke about the organization, he seemed truly shocked about all N/MCRS does for Sailors, Marines, and their families.

Below is a True-or-False questionnaire to see how much you know about today's N/MCRS.

Q: All services provided by N/MCRS are confidential.

A: True. At N/MCRS all clients who call or enter the door are treated with respect and confidentially. The fact that you have requested information or used services provided by the society will not be shared with anyone including your command.

Q: All services provided by N/MCRS are free.

A: True. N/MCRS is a non-profit organization serving active duty and retired Navy and Marine Corps families. All services are free of charge to the clients. N/MCRS receives its funding by sales from the N/MCRS Thrift Shop, repayment of interest-free loans, and contributions from the annual N/MCRS fund drives.

Q: NMCRS is only available in times of need.

A: False. N/MCRS is always available when emergencies come up, but the so-

ciety also provides other services. N/MCRS is committed to improving the quality of life for Sailors, Marines, and their families. The society specializes in the area of personal financial management. N/MCRS also offers scholarships and loans for higher education and has a visiting nurses program.

Q: You can get help with an emergency even when the N/MCRS Office is closed.

A: True. To get help on weekends and after 3:30 PM on weekdays, call Red Cross at 1-877-272-7337. The Red Cross works with N/MCRS to assist families in emergencies.

Q: N/MCRS considers emergencies on a case by case basis.

A: True. N/MCRS provides interest-free loans and grants to help with emergencies. So what is an emergency? Emergencies are defined by the situation. N/MCRS listens to each client's circumstances and offers help based on N/MCRS policy. Typically N/MCRS offers money for essential vehicle repairs, emergency transportation, and to help pay for food, rent, and utilities. Assistance is also available to pay for medical and dental bills, funeral expenses, disaster relief, and other unexpected emergencies.

Q: N/MCRS will help you

develop a sound budget.

A: True. N/MCRS provides free one-on-one budget sessions. N/MCRS also provides group budget session. One of the most popular group sessions is the "Budget for Baby" class. The Budget Counselor also does training and information sessions for individual commands upon request. The topics covered are tailored to meet the needs of the group. Possible topics covered are developing a savings plan, basic budgeting skills, checkbook management, and consumer awareness.

Q: N/MCRS offers investment advice.

A: False. N/MCRS will help you develop a sound budget and a spending plan to achieve your goals whether it be to take the vacation of your dreams or to

become debt-free, but N/MCRS will not offer investment advise.

Q: N/MCRS provides consolidation loans.

A: False. The Society will assist in times of need with interest-free loans and grants, but does not offer consolidation loans.

Q: You have to be an expecting family E-5 or below to receive a free "Junior Sea-bag".

A: False. All attendees of the "Budget for Baby" class regardless of rank or rate receive a free Junior Sea-Bag. "Budget for Baby" classes are held at the Pearl Harbor Office on the first and third Thursday mornings and at the Kaneohe Bay Office on the fourth Monday morning of every month. The layette is valued at over \$75 and contains a hand-made blan-

ket, items from the Gerber Corporation such as T-shirts, crib sheets, hooded towel, and much, much more.

Q: N/MCRS only offers scholarships to children of Navy and Marine Corps personnel.

A: False. The Vice Adm. Travers Scholarship and Loan program provides scholarships up to \$2,000 and interest-free loans up to \$3,000 for full-time undergraduate education. It is available to children of active duty and retired Sailors and Marines, but is also available to spouses of active duty Sailors and Marines. N/MCRS also offers other programs designed for active duty military.

To find out more information about these programs, log on to www.nmcres.org/education.html.

Q: N/MCRS will pay childcare expenses for volunteers.

A: True. There are many benefits when you volunteer. N/MCRS appreciates its Volunteers as they provide most services. One of the most popular benefits is that N/MCRS will pay for childcare whether you are working with clients, attending training, or an official function. N/MCRS also reimburses for mileage and holds quarterly award ceremonies that recognize volunteer contributions to the society.

Q: Volunteers can learn new computer and job skills.

A: True. N/MCRS initiated a program back in 1994 similar to the Navy's Total Quality Leadership. Through this program training is available to all volunteers. Volunteers can attend receptionist training and caseworker training to provide them with the skills necessary to provide high quality service to Sailors and Marines with confidence. New training programs also teach computer skills. Classes are offered based on what the volunteers want to learn. Current classes include how to use email, desktop publishing such as creating greeting cards and newsletters, and advanced uses of Microsoft Word.

Q: N/MCRS has a volunteer run Thrift Shop on island.

A: True. N/MCRS Thrift Shop is located in Building 285 on Long Street, which is on the perimeter of Quick Field on the Pearl Harbor Naval Base. The Thrift Shop is open three days a week. It is open on Tuesdays and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9a.m. to noon. It is also open via appointment if a Sailor or Marine is deploying and needs last minute uniform items. To schedule an ap-

See N/MCRS, A-11



The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive is scheduled to end April 6.

For more information, or to contribute, contact the Kaneohe Bay Auxilliary Branch of the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society at 254-1327 or contact your unit rep.

11th MEU invades Schofield Barracks

Story and photos by
Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible
Combat Correspondent

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Marines of Echo Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/1, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) took a break from their normal infantry training March 20 when they tackled the leadership reaction course, assaulted through the bayonet assault course and fought through close combat training here.

“The whole purpose of this training was to come out and get the Marines away from infantry training, challenge their minds and let them have some fun,” said 1st Lt. Michael McCready, Echo Co. executive officer.

The 11th MEU(SOC) Marines came to Hawaii to refresh the Marines’ basic warrior skills as they complete the first leg of their six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and the Arabian Gulf.

“We are in Hawaii to give the Marines two days of adventure/training and a day and a half of lib-

erty so the Marines can have some fun before we get back underway,” said McCready.

The enjoyment on March 20 began with the Marines exercising their minds and their teamwork on the LRC.

At more than 10 stations, the Marines had to successfully navigate an obstacle that stood between them and their objective using a bare minimum of equipment and a maximum of brainpower.

Each station had a time limit in which the Marines had to complete the mission without touching certain areas.

The missions varied from resupplying a unit on the front lines across a rushing river, to navigating a minefield to escape an enemy patrol, or moving sensitive radio equipment across booby trapped areas to establish an air traffic control facility.

Even though not all of the obstacles were successfully navigated, the Marines took advantage of the learning experience and opportunity to build trust in their teammates.

“The training helped the

Marines learn to depend on and trust each other more,” said Cpl. Patrick S. Hansen, a rifleman with Echo Co.

The Marines then moved on to the bayonet assault course where they refreshed their skills at moving through a hostile environment and engaging an enemy at close range.

Finally, Marines could be seen throwing each other, launching punches and kicks and falling to the ground as they performed close combat training, maintaining their ability to defend themselves in close quarters when unarmed.

“(The LRC, bayonet assault course and close combat) was good training it was also a nice change from the things we normally do,” said Hansen

Upon the completion of their training, the Marines were released for a day and a half of liberty and headed out for some much-needed rest and relaxation before embarking on the ships of the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group to continue on their six-month deployment before returning to Camp Pendleton.



Lance Cpl. Justin M. Rettenberger, a rifleman with Echo Co., BLT 2/1, receives a helping hand as he scales a wall at the LRC.



Rettenberger uses the equipment on hand to assist in scaling a 9-foot wall.



Corporal Patrick S. Hansen, a rifleman with Echo Co., BLT 2/1, attempts to swing across a patch of quicksand at the LRC.



Corporal James D. McGhee, a rifleman with Echo Co., BLT 2/1, passes an oil drum up a ramp during the MEU's training

SALUTES

3rd Marine Regiment
Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals
Cpl. G. L. Bernard
Cpl. T. L. Fousek
Lance Cpl. C. M. Perry

3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment
Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals
Capt. B. Dow
Staff Sgt. J. Wright
Petty Officer 1st Class M. Bordonada
Sgt. E. Moreland
Sgt. L. Reynoso
Sgt. McNally
Sgt. Peterson
Cpl. D. Fields
Cpl. J. Hernandez
Cpl. J. Burchett
Cpl. A. Westenburg
Petty Officer 3rd Class C. Dwiggins
Cpl. B. Llanos
Petty Officer 2nd Class I. Dacquel
Petty Officer 2nd Class A. Cabral
Petty Officer 2nd Class D. Aldana
Lance Cpl. N. Brown
Lance Cpl. M. Fanning
Seaman G. Bessey

Certificate of Commendation
Sgt. B. Haddley
Sgt. L. Shippert
Cpl. J. Lollar
Cpl. J. Okos
Cpl. E. Shoulta

Lance Cpl. J. Ewing
Lance Cpl. J. Rodrigues
Lance Cpl. M. Bachicha
Lance Cpl. M. Tate
Lance Cpl. J. Minchey
Lance Cpl. D. Fraley
Lance Cpl. R. Taylor
Lance Cpl. F. Fitzgerald
Lance Cpl. T. Lamb
Seaman Sczytowski
Seaman E. Morgan

Good Conduct Medal
Gunnery Sgt. W. T. Hansen
Staff Sgt. B. M. Achen
Staff Sgt. M. B. Getchel
Staff Sgt. A. Rodriguez
Sgt. K. N. Berregard
Cpl. K. M. Hutson
Cpl. R. L. Keller
Cpl. S. R. Neumeyer

1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment
Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals
Sgt. McNally

Certificates of Commendation
Cpl. Goldy
Cpl. Madson
Cpl. Rogers
Cpl. Spears
Lance Cpl. Waggoner
Lance Cpl. Anderson
Lance Cpl. Bonami

Base holds Nat’l Alcohol Awareness Day

Alton Arakaki
MCB Hawaii SACC

The Base Substance Abuse Counseling Center in conjunction with the Single Marine and Sailor Program, is scheduled to hold alcohol awareness activities aboard MCB Hawaii April 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The purpose of the awareness day is to raise an under-

standing about alcohol problems and to provide outreach to the community. Information and assistance booths will be set up at Mokapu Mall, the Anderson Hall Dining Facility, Semper Fit Center, Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course, and the Camp Smith American Eatery. Educational materials and a self-scoring test will be available for pick up at the above locations. Prizes will also be given out at these times. Servicemembers, family members, DoD civilians and retirees are urged to swing by these information booths. Anyone who believes they or someone they know has an alcohol problem, contact the base SACC office at 257-3900.

MCBH Chapel Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday
Roman Catholic Mass
Saturday 5 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Protestant
Sunday 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Gospel of Holiness
Sunday 1 p.m.

Holy (Maundy) Thursday
Roman Catholic Mass
5 p.m.
Protestant
7 p.m.

Good Friday
Roman Catholic Stations of the Cross
11:45 a.m.

Roman Catholic Solemn Good Friday
5 p.m.
Protestant Good Friday Service
1 p.m.

Holy Saturday
Roman Catholic Vigil Mass
5 p.m.

Easter Sunday
Easter Sunrise Service
6 a.m. at K-Bay Range Facility
Roman Catholic Mass
Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Protestant
Sunday 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Gospel of Holiness Sunday 1:30 p.m.

=====EVERY CLIME AND PLACE=====

Recruiter controls chaos during school shooting

Sgt. Steven Williams
12th Marine Corps Recruiting District

RECRUITING STATION SAN DIEGO, Calif. — A San Diego recruiter took control of an economics class of 38 students as gunshots 200 feet away interrupted his career talk at Granite Hills High School in El Cajon, Calif., March 22. Staff Sgt. Theodore Thomas ordered the students to get on the floor as he closed the blinds and kept the intense situation as calm as possible.

“I told everyone to stay between the isles and not go near the windows,” said Thomas. “I did that so if the shooter came by, he wouldn’t be tempted to shoot. The less the shooter sees, the less apt they are to shoot.”

Thomas then gave his cell phone to the class, so they could pass it around and tell their parents they were safe. He ordered PFC Allan Cohen, his recruiter’s assistant and 2000 graduate of the school, and Bill Affeldt, who was recruited by Thomas and is preparing to go to recruit training after graduation, to keep the students calm while he went outside to get other students into classrooms.

“He gave me an important role,” said Cohen. “He put the safety of those students in my hands. If I didn’t follow those orders, who know what could’ve happened.”

“If SSgt. Thomas had not been there, we would’ve all ran outside, trying to figure out what was going on,” said Affeldt. “He basically kept everyone in line. Because he is a Marine, and everyone has more respect for him, when he says something, they do it.”

“After I got everyone into the classrooms, I went to the end of the building,” said Thomas, who was part of an oper-



Sgt. Steven Williams

Staff Sgt. Theodore Thomas, a recruiter with 12th Marine Corps Recruiting District, helped keep 38 students safe during a school shooting at Granite Hills High School, in El Cajon, Calif. March 22.

ation in Saudi Arabia in 1991 that captured 1,500 Iraqi prisoners of war POWs. “For some reason, being infantry, my inclination was to go toward the bullets and get (him). Once I realized I didn’t have a weapon and a flak jacket, I went back to the class.”

Thomas returned to an overload of questions about what was happening. He told the students that they had an impor-

tant role to play, and that was to remain calm and focused. “I told them chaos will overrun an environment if you let it,” he recalled. “You have to control chaos and not let it take over. If you get as crazy as chaos, chaos will win every time.” He turned on the classroom television to let the students see what details were available on the situation. He remained with the students until they were all evacuated to a nearby park to reunite with their parents.

Thomas, Cohen and his six poolees in the school were unharmed. Unfortunately, seven other people were injured in the shooting, including the 18-year-old shooter, who was shot in the jaw and buttocks in a shootout with police.

This came just two-and-a-half weeks after two people were killed and 13 were wounded in a shooting at Santana High School, a few miles north.

The recruiters spend several hours a week at schools like these throughout every school year. Thomas said these incidents will not deter him from continuing with business as usual.

“It will not stop me from doing my job,” said Thomas. “If I could be at every school, all day, keeping them safe, I would. But that is impossible. So, I will continue to keep up my mission.”

He plans to attend community services held for the shooting to provide support and advice to the students involved. He said this first-hand experience has allowed him to “truly understand why students are afraid to go to school.”

Thomas has a little less than two years left on the streets before he leaves recruiting. He said he’s going to pass on as much guidance and experience to his schools as he can, so they can stay prepared for any situation that may arise.

SQUAD, From A-1

claiming the event.

The Marines of 3/3 closed the point gap during the next event, the defensive evaluation. The 3/3 Marines constructed a defense that was more effective and secure than that of 1/3, therefore taking the event.

The work of the 3/3 Marines was neutralized in the next event, the patrolling evaluation. The 1/3 Marines took this event and stretched their overall lead out to two points, 10-8.

As the Marines of 3/3 fought valiantly to come back in the points race, the 1/3 Marines continued to widen the gap by claiming victory in the weapons

handling portion of the competition.

Upon leaving the field and returning to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the Marines faced two more events, or so they thought.

The 3/3 Marines made a comeback during the final two events, winning the evaluation of calling for artillery fire support and the written exam that covered all of the knowledge needed to effectively perform a rifle squad’s mission.

This year’s contest ended in a 14-14 tie between the 1/3 and 3/3 squads. The contest was so closely fought that it came down to a physical fitness test to determine the winners. Even

the tiebreaker was closely contested, with the victorious squad, from 3/3, beating out their competitors by a mere eight points in a 300-point event.

“All of the Marines were outstanding, but somebody’s got to win or lose,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Daniel S. Geltmacher, 3rd Marines regimental gunner.

The victorious squadleader couldn’t praise his Marines enough for the work they had put forth.

“I knew we would be able to pull it off,” said Sgt. Michael J. Stingle, the victorious squad’s squad leader. “This squad works well together and I am glad I had a chance to be their

squad leader. It’s because of them that we won.”

Even the second place team gained a lot out of the competition.

“Everyone has picked up so much more knowledge and learned so much that will help them through their next four years, clear down to the newest private first class,” said Sgt. Mark A. Mueller, the 1/3 squad leader.

Hawaii Marines will continued to be represented to the Marine Corps by the winners, and possibly the second place team, as they make their way to Okinawa, Japan, for the 3rd Marine Division Super Squad competition.





Cpl. Roman Yurek

Sgt. Jeffery Arao, a supply administration and operations clerk for Supply Co., CSSG-3 helps 8-year-old Hailey Williams, a first grader at Mokapu Elementary School, with her reading skills.

Marine aids reading program

Cpl. Roman Yurek
Combat Correspondent

A reading tutor at Mokapu Elementary School, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, has returned to the school of his youth to aid students in the same classrooms he once frequented.

Sergeant Jeffery Arao, a supply administration and operations clerk for Supply Company, Combat Service Support Group 3, gives up 45 minutes of his Monday and Wednesday lunchtime to help 8-year-old Hailey Williams, a first grader at Mokapu, with her reading skills.

“This is the first time I’ve done volunteer work here,” said the 25-year-old Ewa Beach, Hawaii, native. “I am a Mokapu alumni.”

Arao is the son of a Marine and during his father’s career in the Marine Corps, he was stationed here. Arao spent kindergarten through second grade at Mokapu.

Later he returned to Hawaii and finished his senior year at Kalaheo High School.

In the eight years that Arao has spent in the Marine Corps, this was the first time he heard about the Volunteer and Service to America program. Once he learned of the program, he seized the opportunity to help.

“When I got the email, I called the school,” said Arao. “I would have

jumped on this sooner if I knew about it. I like reading to Hailey and it’s good for me, too.”

Arao said he sees the 45-minute reading session as a way to not only help a child with reading, but to prepare himself for teaching his 4-year-old daughter Anessa to read.

For now he works on improving Hailey’s reading skills.

“I like it a lot,” Hailey said about the time spent with Arao. “He helps me sound out words I don’t know and asks me questions about what I read.”

Arao does more than just assist in reading, he also acts as a role model.

“They work on vocabulary and stories that I use in class, but he is also there to build Hailey’s self-esteem,” said Hailey’s teacher Erin Neill. “He is a good role model. He’s here every day he is assigned to come.”

“I was nervous the first time I came in,” said Arao. “Now I see a lot of progress in Hailey and she seems more comfortable with me.”

When the bell rings, Arao says goodbye and leaves the school of his youth. Every Monday and Wednesday he returns to help Hailey improve her reading skills.

The school is looking for more people like Arao to volunteer their time to help students. If anyone is interested in volunteering, they can contact the school at 254-7964.

MarForPac Band enlivens rainy 5th Annual ‘Tattoo’

Story and Photos by
Cpl. David Salazar
Editor

FORT DERUSSY — Amidst the "pitter patter" of heavy raindrops, spectators and passersby were enchanted by the musical tunes of six bands performing under the drab gray sky of Kuroda Field here Saturday during the 5th Annual Twilight Tattoo .

Members of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) "Tropic Lightning" Band, Air Force Band of the Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, Celtic Pipes and Drum of Hawaii, Leilehua High School Junior ROTC Drill Team, the Marine Forces Pacific Band, came together despite the inclement weather to treat the Waikiki community to a musical show.

The origins of the military tattoo can be traced to Europe, when a military drummer would round up soldiers from drinking establishments by playing a tune on his drum. Soon, the marching percussionist would be followed by the soldiers from the town to their barracks. A version of the military tattoo is still played every night aboard military bases at 9:50 p.m., traditionally, to call straying servicemen back to their quarters before taps and "lights out."

This particular event, hosted annually by the commanding general of the 25th Infantry



Sergeant Victoria Cronsell, a clarinetist and vocalist for the MarForPac Band, sings “Amazing Grace.”

Division (Light) and U.S. Army Hawaii, is held to give members of the community a chance to catch a glimpse of military band performances.

"The annual ‘Tattoo’ gives each service a chance to display the skills of their individual marching bands," said Marine Master Sgt. Ronald Hackler, the MarForPac Band enlisted band leader. "It also gives way for some friendly interservice rivalry — but the main purpose of this is to give the community a chance to see us perform."

And not even the constant downpour could chase away most of the spectators from the melodious event.

"The weather chased a few people away, but a lot of them stayed for the show," said Army Staff Sgt. Frank Derby, the 25th Infantry Division (Light) "Tropic Lightning" Band drum major. "Lots of people toughed it out and I think that shows just how important the show is for them."

The rain didn’t bother the bands, either. "We didn’t play any different in the rain than we would have in the hot sun," Derby commented.

"I don’t think it affected our performance at all," said Cpl. James Stanley, a french horn player for the MarForPac band. "If it rains, we don’t stop training — the same goes for events like this — we continue to play and continue to march."



The Marine Forces Pacific Band marches toward Chief Warrant Officer 3 Alexander K. Gray, the officer-in-charge of the MarForPac Band, shortly before performing their segment during the 5th Annual Twilight Tattoo at Kuroda Field on Fort DeRussy in Waikiki Saturday evening. Tha MarForPac Band performed alongside military bands from across Oahu and the Celtic Hawaiian Pipe and Drum of Hawaii and the Leilehua High School JROTC Drill Team.

Each act performed a 15-minute set which offered the dedicated audience a variety of tunes from elaborate military marches by the MarForPac band to swing-style music and pop songs courtesy of the "Tropic Lightning" band.

But it was the Marines who stole the show by incorporating Marines in nostalgic uni-

forms from throughout the Corps’ history, and ending their segment with the quintessential illustration of the Marine Corps: a reenactment of the Marines’ flag raising on Mount Suribachi in Iwo Jima.

Not surprisingly, all bands managed to show their true colors — even through colorless skies and relentless rain.

PLAN, From A-1

or \$35,000, whichever is less.

Like civilian employees in the program, servicemembers must choose how they want their money invested. Right now, there are three funds to choose from. The funds run the gamut of safe — the G Fund invests in special government bonds — to riskier investments — the C Fund tied to the stock market. There is also an F Fund for investing in commercial bonds.

TSP will unveil the new S and I funds in May. S Fund investments go to a stock index fund that paces small businesses. I Fund investors will track international companies the same way.

Servicemembers will be able to start, change or reallocate their TSP contributions during two open seasons held each year. These are November to January and May to July.

“Because bonuses are hard to predict, if you are already participating in the plan and contributing from basic pay and you receive, for example, a re-enlistment bonus, you can elect to contribute at any time,” Emswiler said.

Contributions to the plan come from “pre-tax” dollars. Servicemembers pay no federal or state income taxes on contributions or earnings until they’re withdrawn.

The services will have teams visiting members to explain the program. Until then, see the thrift plan’s uniformed services page at www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html for more information.

PETS, From A-1

sonnel can refuse to check pets into the cargo hold depending on the current weather conditions, but offer alternatives to shipping pets before or after passengers

travel by coordinating with professional pet courier services.

Webb said that although TMO helps coordinate travel for pets (only dogs and cats), it is the passenger who pays all fees associated with the pet’s travel

— often between \$75 dollars and \$150 dollars depending on the size of the pet.

For more information on pet travel and relocation, contact the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Traffic Management Office at

257-5569, or the Camp H.M. Smith TMO at 477-8838. Information on pet travel may also be obtained by logging on to individual airlines’ respective websites. *Look for more articles on TMO next week.*

LEGAL, From A-1

for help with financial and legal problems.

“We streamlined our service to be proficient for effective production and service to Marines, Sailors and their family members,” said Sgt. Mitchell S. M. Jones, legal assistance chief of the legal assistance center. “We restructured our procedures to handle an ever increasing client base.”

With tax season in full swing, the center is further tasked with the responsibility of providing free tax service and assistance to Marines, Sailors and their families.

Despite obstacles in manpower, the legal service center takes pride in continually providing quality service to its clients.

Qualification qualms



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Staff Sgt. Edgar Amadis, a Combat Water Survival Course instructor, teaches students from the Castle High School JROTC proper water survival techniques Tuesday, during the cadets’ three-day Spring Leadership Course aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

N/MCRS, From A-5

pointment, call the Pearl Harbor Thrift Shop at 422-4691.

In 2000 the N/MCRS Thrift Shop served over 5,800 customers and earned over \$40,000. The Thrift Shop sells household items and runs a used uniform shop. Household items include kitchen supplies, furniture, books, videos, baby items, power tools, bikes, and much, much more. In the uniform section you can fill a sea-bag with uniforms for what it cost to buy the bag. Items stocked range from a work uniform for a new recruit to a dress uniform for an Admiral and everything in between.

Q: All items donated to

N/MCRS Thrift Shop are tax-deductible.

A: True. N/MCRS shelves are only stocked by donated items. Donations are tax-deductible and every penny earned goes directly into the interest-free loan and grant fund to help Sailors and Marines in times of need. Donated items can be dropped off at one of three locations. One is the Pearl Harbor Office Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 3:30 PM. The other two are 24-hour drop boxes located at the front and the back of the Thrift Shop on Long Street.

Q: N/MCRS Visiting Nurses provide free in-home two-week well baby checks.

A: True. The Visiting Nurses also do much more. The N/MCRS Visiting



Nurses are licensed Registered Nurses who provide the comfort of a home visit where all information is confidential. They work with military and civilian facilities to provide the best care to Navy and Marine

Corps families. Services provided by the Visiting Nurses are voluntary. The goal is to provide families with knowledge and skills to remain healthy.

To achieve the goal of healthy families, N/MCRS

Visiting Nurses provide many services. The Nurses are available to answer any health-related questions you may have. On common topics such as labor and childbirth, you can borrow videos free of charge for up to 10 days. For specific or personal questions, just call 423-1314 and a N/MCRS Nurse will return your call by the next business day.

They provide in-home visits. The most common visits are to new mothers and babies for the two-week well baby check.

The nurse will come to your home and do everything that would be done at the doctor’s office including answering any questions you may have about your newborn or postpartum period. They also make in-home vis-

its to other patients upon referral from their health care provider.

Hopefully you have learned something new about N/MCRS. Even though the Society has been serving families for the last 97 years, we are always working to improve service and meet the needs of our Navy and Marine Corps community. In 2000 the Hawaii Offices served over 1,870 clients. N/MCRS awarded over \$980,000 interest-free loans and grants and gave 315 expecting families a free “Junior Sea-bag”.

If you would like more information and/or the services provided by N/MCRS, please call us. The Pearl Harbor Office can be reached at 423-1314 and the Kaneohe Bay Office at 254-1327.